

REMARKS

Reconsideration of the Application in view of the above amendments and the following remarks is respectfully requested.

Status of the Claims

Claims 1-12 and 14-20 were previously pending.

Claim 1 has been amended. No new matter has been added by way of the amendment.

Claim 10 has been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter therein.

Claim 21 has been added. No new matter is added.

Claims 1-9, 11, 12 and 14-21 are pending.

Claim 13 has been canceled.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicants would like to thank the Examiner for the indication that claim 10 contains allowable subject matter. Claim 10 is objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1-8, 11, 12, 14-16 and 18-20 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 4,595,392 to Johnson in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,618,282 to Schlangen. Claims 9 and 17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Johnson in view of Schlangen and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,332,878 to Wray et al.

Claim 1 has been amended to include the allowable features of claim 10. Thus, claim 1 is patentable over the cited prior art. Claims 2-12 and 14-20 depend from claim 1 and are patentable for at least the same reasons as claim 1.

Newly added claim 21 also includes the patentable features of claim 10 and is patentable over the cited prior art.

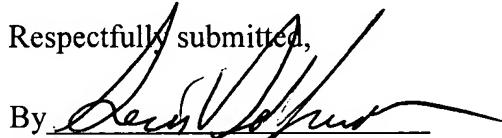
CONCLUSION

Each and every point raised in the Office Action dated July 26, 2006 has been addressed on the basis of the above amendments and remarks. In view of the foregoing it is believed that claims 1-9, 11, 12, and 14-21 are in condition for allowance and it is respectfully requested that the application be reconsidered and that all pending claims be allowed and the case passed to issue.

If there are any other issues remaining which the Examiner believes could be resolved through a Supplemental Response or an Examiner's Amendment, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number indicated below.

Dated: October 26, 2006

Respectfully submitted,

By 
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